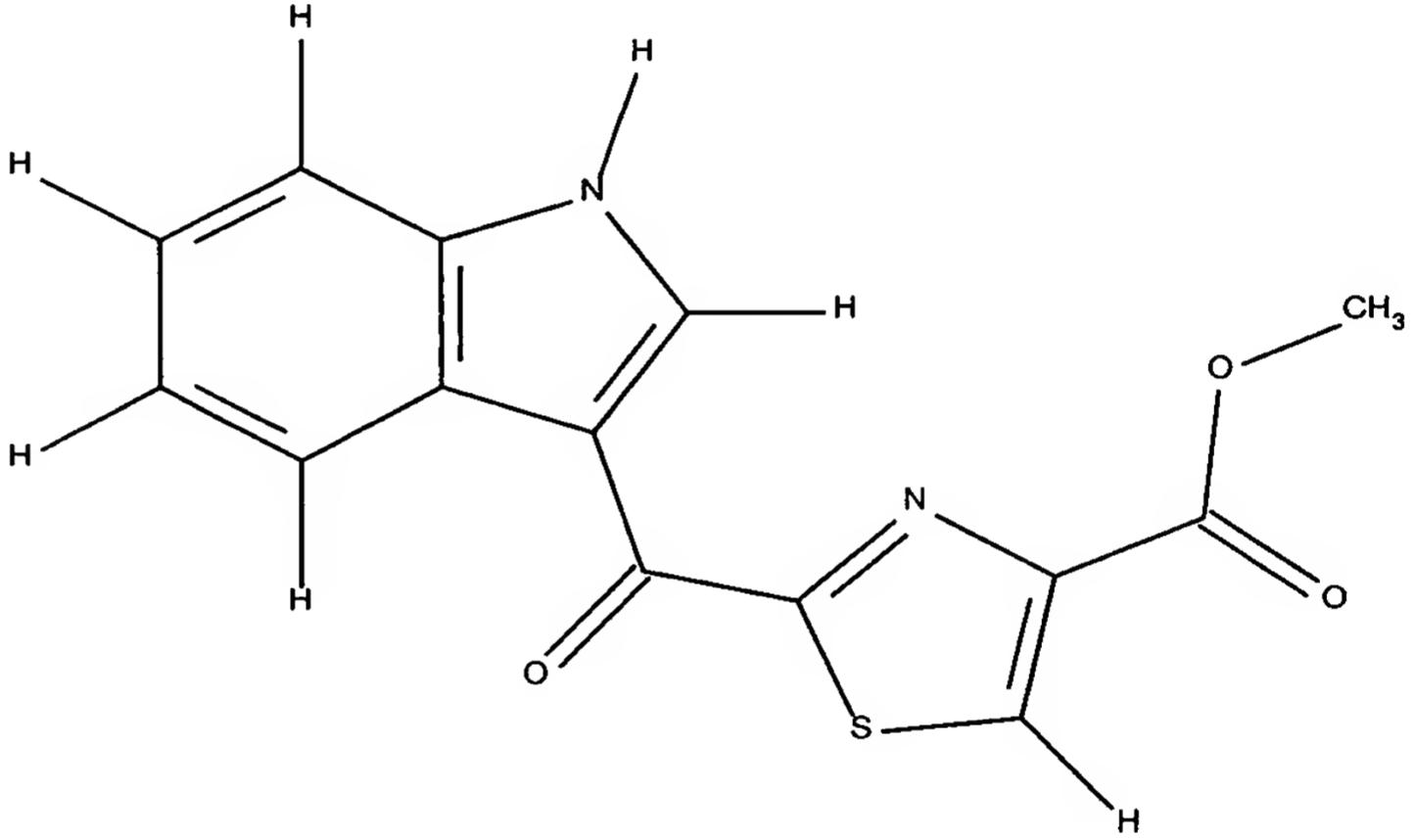


**In the Claims:**

1. (Original) A preparation of the endogenous Ah receptor ligand.
2. (Amended) ~~The An isolated preparation of claim 1 endogenous Ah receptor ligand~~ wherein the ligand has the following formula:  

3. (Original) The preparation of claim 1 wherein the preparation is at least 90% pure.
4. (Original) The preparation of claim 3 wherein the preparation is at least 95% pure.
5. (Original) The preparation of claim 1 wherein the ligand is isolated from animal tissues.

8. (Amended) A method of preparing endogenous Ah receptor ligand comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining and homogenizing an animal organ, wherein the organ contains the Ah receptor ligand, wherein a homogenate is formed,
- b) extracting the homogenate of step (a) with ~~a solvent~~ methanol, wherein an extract is formed,
- c) heating the extract between 90°C and 110°C with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> wherein the extract is flushed with nitrogen gas, and
- d) purifying the ligand through a chloroform gradient and determining ligand activity.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the animal organ is selected for the group consisting of lung, liver, brain, bone, and muscle.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the extraction is with methanol.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the extract is flushed with nitrogen gas, stirred and centrifuged.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein the extract is heated at between 90°C-110°C with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the extract is purified through silica batch purification.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the ligand is further purified on HPLC columns.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of determining ligand activity.

Please add new claims 16 and 17.

16. (New Claim) The method of claim 2 wherein the isolated preparation is at least 90% pure.

17. (New Claim) The method of claim 2 where the preparation is at least 95% pure.